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## Her Classroom Is Statewide

Nancy Voss

*Iowa State College*

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# Her Classroom Is Statewide

by Nancy Voss

*Technical Journalism Junior*

**T**AKING information about and samples of new finishes and developments in fabrics to the people of Iowa is one of the jobs of Miss Opal Roberson, extension clothing specialist of the college.

Miss Roberson spends a great deal of her time traveling through the state displaying her large collection of samples of new fabrics and clothes made from these fabrics. Her audiences vary in number, some of them being as large as 100 women.

Although Miss Roberson speaks at many of these meetings, the women plan the type of meeting they want and make the necessary arrangements. Since it is impossible for her to appear in all parts of the state, each county has its own extension work staff equipped with similar material which enables the extension program to reach many more people.

"Women interested in organizing these meetings find the local merchants are eager to cooperate with them in providing material of samples and garments whenever possible," says Miss Roberson. They want the people to know about the new products and they feel it is the responsibility of the consumer as well as the merchant to become better acquainted with new developments.

One of Miss Roberson's jobs is to show samples of materials which have been treated with certain finishes. She compares these samples with untreated samples and points out the differences.

For example, she carries a sample of shrinkage resistant treated wool. After five washings, the treated

sample shows very slight shrinkage and still has its original texture. The untreated sample is much smaller and is felted and napped.

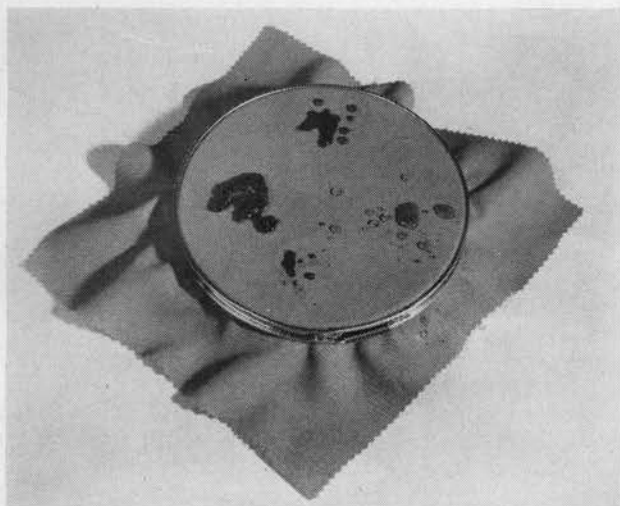
It is also pointed out by Miss Roberson, however, that many of these finishes are still being perfected and that it is still extremely important to read the label when buying a garment or fabric. Some fabrics even after being treated, still have residual shrinkage up to five per cent. She urges her audiences to be careful when buying and not to expect miracles of the new finishes.

"Watch for the label," she says. "A good label should include the residual shrinkage and laundering instructions for the garment."

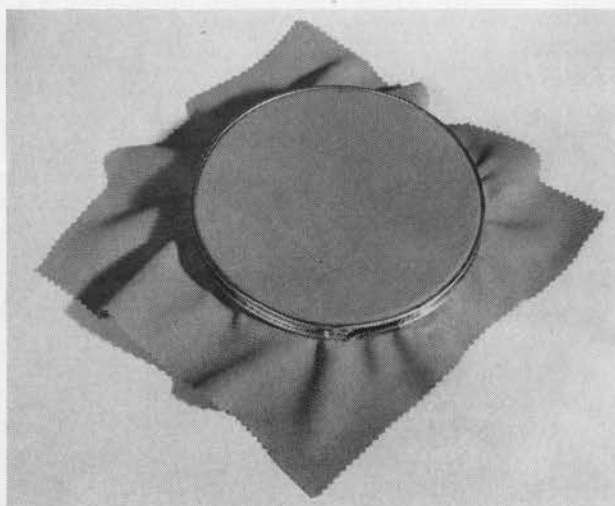
Although the crease resistant finish is also still in the process of perfection, Miss Roberson conducted an interesting demonstration with trousers treated with this finish. Trousers made of the treated fabric were knotted for twenty minutes. When the knots were untied and the trousers hung out, they looked newly pressed and showed no effects of their treatment. Since wool is naturally quite crease resistant due to its natural characteristics, this finish is most valuable for cotton, linen and rayon fabrics.

Fabrics are treated for safety reasons, too, and Miss Roberson feels this is especially important to show in her work. For children's clothing, curtains and other inflammable garments, the fire retardent finish is valuable. Although the treated fabric will char, it

*(Continued on page 17)*



Spun rayon fabric spattered with troublesome stain-makers . . . mud, cherry juice, blood and a common carbonated beverage



Here is the same fabric after being cleaned with a damp cloth. It is also water repellent and permanently wrinkle resistant

to try new techniques, because maybe you'll accidentally come up with something completely new. That's the fun of it all. Qualities of all good design apply to jewelry: balance, emphasis, harmony, interest, order and proportion. And when you visualize your jewelry, be sure that you have an accent, a beautiful form, appropriate color and texture, and, above all, repetition. Experts advise that you adapt your design to suitable metal. They stress that although pieces may appear easily constructed, the key to their beauty is simplicity and good workmanship.

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will not burn. This finish can be applied at home and the extension service promotes its use as often as possible.

The fluorescent finish worn by so many children in jackets, socks and ties has practical advantages, too. The finish makes the fabric show up when automobile lights shine on it, thus enabling the driver to see the child. This is especially valuable in the country where children must often go long distances to school.

Another finish of this same type has tiny glass spheres bonded on the back of the fabric. This also shows up when light shines on it and is used on collars and cuffs of shirts worn by people working in dangerous places.

Other fabrics which Miss Roberson shows are water repellant. Much more durable than the old water repellency, the treated fabric sheds such things as water, carbonated beverages and fruit juice. It will not shed grease stains, however.

Coat linings are being treated with milium which enables a thrifty person to buy one coat to wear during several seasons. The milium is bonded on the back of the coat lining and since it refracts the heat from the body, back to the body, it makes the coat warm and still light-weight.

Although many of the things that Miss Roberson shows have appeared in magazines or news releases before, most of them actually are just reaching the mid-west now. It is her job to acquaint the public with these new ideas and educate them as to their advantages and disadvantages.

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